

REMARKS

Reexamination and reconsideration of the application are requested.

The examiner's rejection of claims 1-5, 7, 10, 11, 14, 15, 17, and 19-21 as "anticipated", under 35 USC 102(e), is respectfully traversed. The examiner rejects these claims as being unpatentable over Gillan (US 2004/0051894). Claims 2-5, 10, 11, 14, and 21 depend from claim 1, and claim 17 depends from claim 15.

Claim 1 requires the machine 12 to include machine controller electronics 18 which alone, when activated, enable the machine to function as all of at least two different devices chosen from a group consisting of a printer, a copier, a scanner, a facsimile device, and a photo card reader. Claim 1 also requires a first operator panel 14 which is removably and directly attachable to the machine 12, and which when attached serves only as a user interface to selectively activate the machine controller electronics 18 to enable the machine 12 to function as at least one of the at least two different functions. Claim 1 further requires a second operator panel 16 which is removably and directly attachable to the machine 12, and which when attached serves only as a user interface to selectively activate the machine controller electronics 18 to enable the machine 12 to function as at least a different one of the at least two different devices.

Gillan discloses a machine 10 and a plurality of devices 12. A first device 12 may be connected to the machine 10, the first device 12 may then be disconnected from the machine, and a second device 12 may be connected to the machine 10 in place of the first device.

Each device 12 of Gillan has at least a recorder 20, an instruction pad 22, and a transceiver 24. The recorder 20 records (creates) image data from an image. Examples of recorders 20 include a digital camera (shown in figure 2), a CAT scanner, a badge reader, etc. An example of an instruction pad 22 and a transceiver 24 is also shown in figure 2. The instruction pad 22 associates recorded image data with an instruction for the machine 10. The recorder 20 sends the recorded image data to the instruction pad 22 which associates an instruction with the recorded image data, and the instruction pad 22 sends the recorded image

data and associated instruction to the transceiver 24 to send to the machine 10. The transceiver 24 can be wireless or have a cable.

Each device 12 of Gillan is not removably and directly attachable to the machine as required by applicants' claim 1. A device 12 of Gillan wireless connected to the machine 10 cannot be said to be removably and directly attachable to the machine 10 as required by applicants' claim 1. A device 12 of Gillan having a cable connection to the machine 10 is indirectly attachable to the machine 10 through the cable and is not directly attachable to the machine 10 as required by applicants' claim 1. It is noted that the machine 10 of Gillan has one non-removably and directly attached operator panel – namely the user interface (UI) 36.

The examiner is requested to define what the examiner is considering to be "the removably and directly attachable operator panels" of Gillan.

If the examiner is considering each device 12 of Gillan to be an operator panel, it is noted that each device 12 of Gillan has a recorder 20 (a digital camera, a CAT scanner, a badge reader, etc.) which is not removably and directly attachable to the machine 10. Even if the device 12 of Gillan were removably and directly attachable to the machine 10, the device 12 when attached would not serve only as a user interface with the machine 10 since the recorder 20 (digital camera, CAT scanner, badge reader, etc.) would still be capable of recording (taking digital photos, taking CAT scans, reading badges, etc.) even though attached to the machine 10.

If the examiner is considering only the instruction pad 22 of Gillan to be the operator panel, the instruction pad 22 is not removably and directly attachable to the machine 10. Even if the instruction pad 22 were removably and directly attachable to the machine, the instruction pad 22 (operator panel) of Gillan cannot enable the machine to function without being connected to the recorder 20. For example, the instruction pad 22 (operator panel) of Gillan cannot selectively activate the machine controller electronics to enable the machine 10 to function as a photo card reader without the instruction pad 22 (operator panel) being connected to the digital camera containing the photo card.

Basically, Gillan provides a machine 10 which has an image data input port wherein any image recording apparatus such as an electron microscope, etc. (see paragraph 0022 of Gillan) can be adapted to use the machine 10 through the image data input port. Applicants' claimed invention has removably and directly operator panels which serve only as a user interface (and not something else like an electron microscope interface or other image recording apparatus interface). A benefit of applicants' claimed invention is having a low inventory of the base machine and responding to an increased demand for a machine having particular functions by having the retail store equip the base machine with the corresponding operator panel which allows the machine to perform the particular functions (see page 2, line 23 to page 3, line 8 of applicants' specification).

Claim 15 requires the machine 12 to include machine controller electronics 18 which alone, when activated, enable the machine to operate in a computer-host-based mode. Claim 15 also requires a first operator panel 14 which is removably and directly attachable to the machine 12, and which when attached serves only as a user interface to selectively activate the machine controller electronics 18 to enable the machine 12 to operate in the computer-host-based mode wherein the machine cannot operate in a stand-alone-based mode when the first operator panel 14 is attached. Claim 15 further requires a second operator panel 16 which is removably and directly attachable to the machine 12, and which when attached serves only as a user interface to selectively activate the machine controller electronics 18 to enable the machine 12 to also function in the computer-host-based mode.

Applicants' previous comments concerning Gillan not disclosing removably and directly attachable first and second operator panels and not having the devices 12 considered operator panels are herein incorporated by reference. If the examiner is considering only the instruction pad 22 of Gillan to be the operator panel, and even if the instruction pad 22 were removably and directly attachable to the machine, the instruction pad 22 (operator panel) of Gillan cannot enable the machine to function in any mode (computer-host-based and/or stand-alone-based) without being connected to the recorder 20. For example, the instruction pad 22 (operator panel) of Gillan cannot selectively activate the machine controller electronics to enable the machine 10 to function as a photo card reader in a computer-host-based mode and/or in a stand-alone-based

mode without the instruction pad 22 (operator panel) being connected to the digital camera containing the photo card.

Claim 19 is similar to claim 1, and applicants' remarks concerning the patentability of claim 1 over Gillan are herein incorporated by reference.

Claim 20 is similar to claim 15, and applicants' remarks concerning the patentability of claim 15 over Gillan are herein incorporated by reference.

The examiner's rejection of claims 6, 16, and 18 as "obvious", under 35 USC 103, is respectfully traversed. The examiner rejects these claims as being unpatentable over Gillan (US 2004/0051894) in view of Aoki (US 2005/0262274) and Oyanagi (US 2002/0044300). Claim 6 depends from claim 1, claims 16 and 18 depend from claim 15, and applicants' previous remarks concerning the patentability of claims 1 and 15 over Gillan are herein incorporated by reference.

The examiner's rejection of claims 8, 9, 12, and 13 as "obvious", under 35 USC 103, is respectfully traversed. The examiner rejects these claims as being unpatentable over Gillan (US 2004/0051894) in view of Manico (US 7,170,557). Claims 8, 9, 12, and 13 depend from claim 1, and applicants' previous remarks concerning the patentability of claim 1 over Gillan are herein incorporated by reference.

The examiner's rejection of claim 22 as "obvious", under 35 USC 103, is respectfully traversed. The examiner rejects these claims as being unpatentable over Gillan (US 2004/0051894) in view of admitted prior art. Claim 22 depends from claim 1, and applicants' previous remarks concerning the patentability of claim 1 over Gillan are herein incorporated by reference.

Inasmuch as each of the rejections has been answered by the above remarks, it is respectfully requested that the rejections be withdrawn, and that this application be passed to issue. The Commissioner is authorized to charge any additional fees required or to credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 20-0809.

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Amendment After Final

Respectfully submitted,

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